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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,235	03/12/2004	Sze-Moey Voon	200314056-1	8851

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION		
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400		

EXAMINER	
BUI, HUNG S	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2841	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
01/31/2008	ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/800,235	<b>Applicant(s)</b> VOON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Hung S. Bui	<b>Art Unit</b> 2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-20 and 22-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-20 and 22-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 13-16, 18, 22 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Joynes et al. [US 5,372,225].

**Regarding claims 1, 13, 15 and 25,** Joynes et al. disclose a housing (figure 1) for an electronic system, the housing:

- an interface opening (a rear interface of the housing connected with a cable 24, as shown in the figure 1) operable to expose an interface connector that is mounted to an interface held by the housing and coupled to circuitry disposed within the housing (a circuitry as well known in the television housing); and
- a passage (12, figure 1) having a first opening (opening accept the cable 24 getting through, figure 1) adjacent to the interface opening, having a second opening and a third opening (the passage having a plurality of openings to accept cables 20, 22, 16 and 18, figures 1-2), wherein at least one of the openings opens to an environment outside the housing without exposing the circuitry to the environment, the circuitry disposed in the housing not being disposed in the passage (the passage does not include the circuitry), the passage being operable to hold a communication medium that includes a

communication connector attached to the interface connector and that extends from the interface connector through the first opening and the second opening or third opening (figures 1-2).

**Regarding claim 4**, Joynes et al. disclose the third opening being adjacent the second opening (the opening holding cables 18, 16 is adjacent to the opening holding cables 20, 22, as shown in the figure 2).

**Regarding claim 6**, Joynes et al. disclose the passage is substantially straight (see figure 1).

**Regarding claim 10**, Joynes et al. appear to disclose the passage tapers (figures 1-2).

**Regarding claim 14**, Joynes et al. disclose wherein the communication medium comprises a cable (figures 1-2).

**Regarding claim 22**, Joynes et al. disclose wherein the communication medium extends through the interface opening (figure 1).

**Regarding claims 16, 18 and 24**, the claimed method steps are inherent in the product structure of the claim 1.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 19-20, 23 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joynes et al.

**Regarding claims 3 and 19-20**, Joynes et al. disclose the housing including a back comprising the interface opening.

Joynes et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the passage/external device being mounted on the top of the housing.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set the passage on the top of the housing, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70.

**Regarding claim 23**, the claimed method steps would have been necessitated by the product structure of these claims 16 and 19.

**Regarding claim 28**, Joynes et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the system is a personal computer.

The structure of the electronic housing as disclosed by Joynes et al., may be used in electrical device housing for instance a personal computer.

5. Claims 5, 7-9, 11-12, 17 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joynes et al. in view of Caveney et al. [US 5,143,868].

**Regarding claim 5**, Joynes et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the housing including a top covering the passage, and a cap operable to close the third opening.

Caveney et al. disclose the third opening (105, figure 1) is adjacent to the second opening, and the housing includes a top covering the passage, and a cap operable to close the third opening (figures 1-2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a cap design of Caveney et al. in Joynes et al., for the purpose of protecting the components therein the housing.

**Regarding claim 7**, Joynes et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the passage is substantially rectangular.

Caveney et al. disclose a passage (figure 1) having a substantially rectangular.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the rectangular shape in Joynes et al., as suggested by Caveney et al., for the purpose of enabling assembly the passage with the housing.

**Regarding claims 8-9**, Joynes et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the third opening is smaller than the area of the second opening and the area of the first opening is smaller than the area of the second opening.

Caveney et al. discloses a housing assembly (figure 1) having a first opening (105, figure 1) and a second opening (opening holds a plurality of connectors 51, 67 and 64) and a third opening (105, figure 1), wherein the first opening is different and smaller than the second opening.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the different opening areas of Caveney et al., in Joynes et

al., for the purpose of providing various openings which can hold various kind of connectors.

**Regarding claims 11-12**, Joynes et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the housing further comprising a storage compartment.

Caveney et al. disclose wherein the housing further comprises a storage compartment (a space in the housing between a cover 44, and dividers as shown on top of the passage 97, figure 3), and the second and third openings opens to the storage compartment.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a storage compartment therein the housing of Joynes et al., as suggested by Caveney et al., for the purpose of providing space to store the components.

**Regarding claim 17**, the claimed method step would have been necessitated by the product structure following claim 11.

**Regarding claims 26-27**, Joynes et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the housing includes a top releasably fastened to at least one of the sidewalls to convert the passage into a tunnel.

Caveney et al. disclose the housing including a plurality of releasably fasteners (93, figures 1-3) to at least one of the sidewalls to convert the passage into a tunnel.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the fastener design of Caveney et al., in Joynes et al., for the purpose of enabling assembly the electronic device.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-20 and 22-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Sato [US 6,304,428] discloses housing for an AC adapter in an electronic instrument;
- Bugg [US 6,733,341] discloses network interface adapter;
- Torrance [US 2005/0231080] discloses cable organizer cabinet; and
- Goh [US 2005/0170687] discloses organizer for cables and accessories in a computer and method.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any



Application/Control Number:  
10/800,235  
Art Unit: 2841

Page 8


extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gutierrez F. Diego can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

01/17/2008  
**Hung Bui**  
**Art Unit 2841**

  
TUAN T. DINH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
1/18/08